

Boys and Girls Basketball: State Tournament Seeding

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Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

Authors of the Proposal

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Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Basketball, Boys, Basketball, Girls

Current Rule/Policy

State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

STATE TOURNAMENT Boys & Girls: Pairings for All Classes: A seeding meeting to determine state tournament pairings will be held prior to the state tournament. The participating coaches will seed teams 1-5 in their respective tournament, and the remaining teams representing seeds 6-8 will be determined by a blind draw. Brackets: All Classes in Boys & Girls Upper Bracket Seed #1 vs. Random Draw Seed #4 vs. Seed #5 Lower Bracket Seed #2 vs. Random Draw Seed #3 vs. Random Draw

Proposed Recommendation

Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

STATE TOURNAMENT Boys & Girls: Pairings for All Classes: A seeding meeting to determine state tournament pairings will be held prior to the state tournament. The participating coaches will seed teams 1-8 in their respective tournament. Brackets: All Classes in Boys & Girls Upper Bracket Seed #1 vs. Seed #8. Seed #4 vs. Seed #5 Lower Bracket Seed #2 vs. Seed #7 Seed #3 vs. Seed #6.

Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.

No other policies are impacted by this proposal

Rationale

What is the history of the proposal?

1. Seeding MSHSL State Tournaments has a 16 year precedent dating back to the 2007 State Hockey Tournament. Initial seeding for Girls Basketball and Soccer was 1-8 so there is precedent.
2. Previous 1-5 seeding has on occasion resulted in inequitable and controversial quarterfinal pairings such as 1-6, 3-8. etc. In a deep tournament field a #6 seed is closer to a #5 seed than it is to a #8 seed. The 2022 Class AAA and Class A Girls Tournaments provided prime examples of

inequitable and controversial quarterfinal pairings with the current process.

3. Boys and Girls Coaches have demonstrated great knowledge and integrity in the seeding process especially with the availability of and access to information combined with the expansion of highly rated teams scheduling each other the regular season.

How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?

1. This proposal calls for the seeding of all participating teams 1-8 rather than the existing policy of 1-5 with 3 random draws. Multiple sports favor and/or will be seeking a seed of 1-8 as they make their future recommendations to the MSHSL. This proposal would be consistent with the recent MSHSL decision to allow sports to choose 1-8 seeding for State Tournaments which has already been granted to multiple Sports.

2. MSHSL Sub-Section and Section Tournaments seed ALL teams in ALL sports. Seeding the Boys and Girls State Tournaments 1-8 would result in consistency at the Regional and State levels with education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students.

What other policies are significant in this proposal?

No additional policies would be affected by this proposal

Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups

A 12/2022 survey conducted of Boys and Girls Coaches provided the following:

Girls 88% Yes 12% No

Boys 88.7% Yes 11.3% No

Survey results included representation from all Classes and Sections

Impact

How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools

Seeding 1-8 would be consistent with the seeding of all teams in all sports in MSHSL Sub-Section and Section play.

Administration

How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?

There would be no impact on the administration of Section and State Tournaments.

Length of Tournament

How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?

No impact on the Length of the Tournament

Participants

How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?

No impact on the number of participants/teams

How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?

No impact on the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament.

Facilities

How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?

No impact on facilities

Awards

How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?

No impact on the number of awards.

Other

Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal

Nothing Further

Primary Author and Contact for Proposal

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Position

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